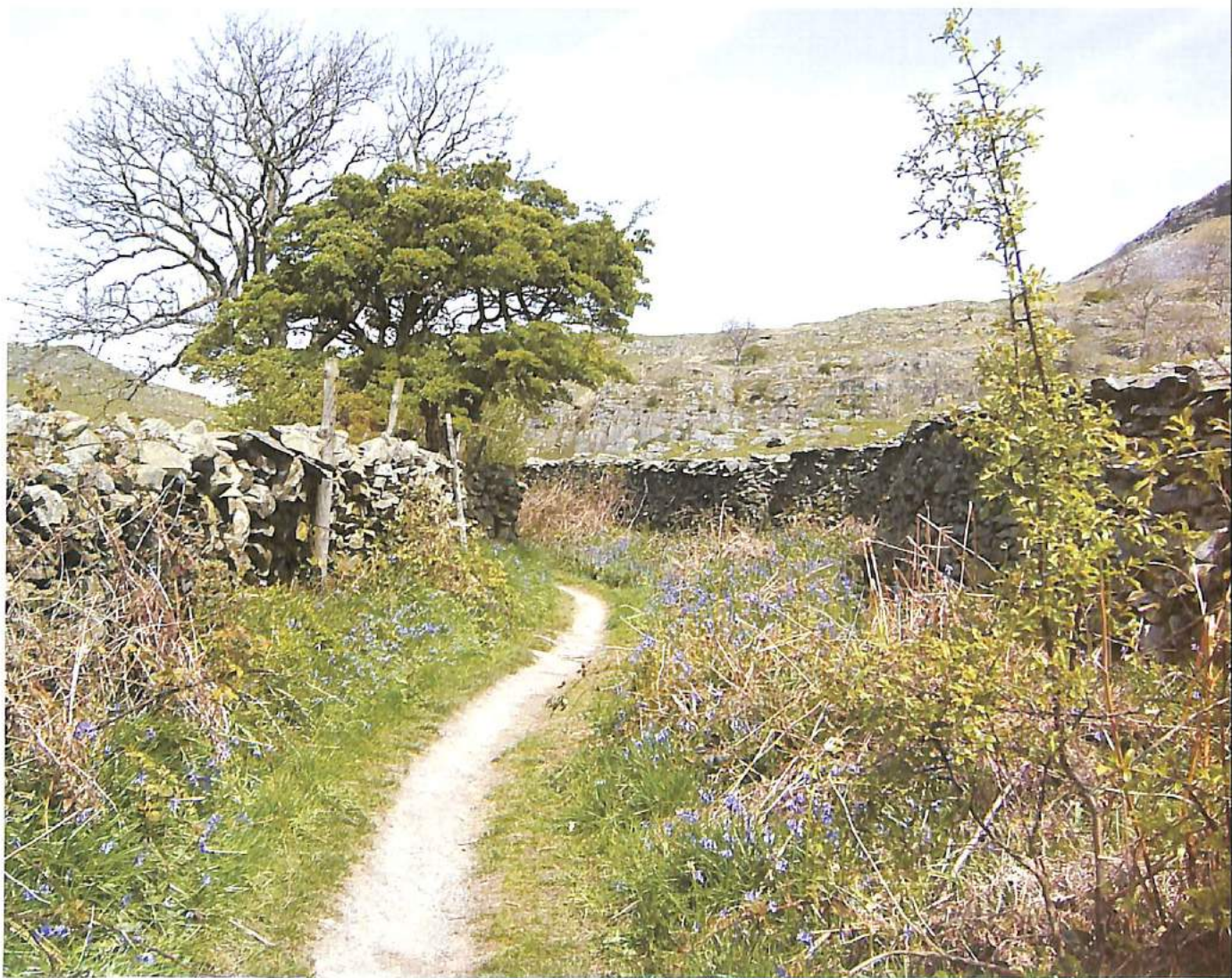


Yorkshire *Dales* Review



- What's in a Name?
- Deadman's Hill Green Lane
- Future of our National Parks
- Profiles of Hugh and Rhona Thornton

Yorkshire Dales Review

No. 110 • Spring 2010

Journal of the Yorkshire Dales Society

Editor: Fleur Speakman with the help of Bill Mitchell, Colin Speakman, Alan Watkinson, Anne Webster and Chris Wright



What's in a Name?

It was all too predictable. Very sensible suggestions by Natural England to complete the long "unfinished business" of the 1949 National Parks Act and revise nonsensical boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks so that they reflect geographic, cultural and landscape features, not arbitrary political boundaries, have become bogged down in petty politics.

For years it has been recognised that the boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales National Park did not make sense in landscape or geographic terms. The western boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales National Park should include both sides of the Lune (the most westerly of the Yorkshire Dales), and the whole, not just half, of the magnificent Howgill Fells. Spectacular Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang Edge should also receive long overdue national protection. For this reason Natural England have suggested that parts of Lancashire and Cumbria (old Westmorland), should be included in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Natural England would also like to see the beautiful Orton Fells, whose limestone pavements are as fine as those in the Dales, receive national protection and management by being included in either the Yorkshire Dales or Lake District National Parks.

These are proposals which the Yorkshire Dales Society and the Friends of the Lake District have long supported and indeed have fought for. On the Orton Fell issue, we would be happy for either solution – as long as this fine landscape gets the protection it deserves.

So far so good! But then someone had the bright idea of renaming the Yorkshire Dales National Park, dropping the word "Yorkshire" as not all the Park would be in "Yorkshire". Even on the extremely unlikely assumption that any suitable new name for the National Park could ever be agreed, the backlash has already begun, with newspapers and television channels in rival bids to draw outraged comments from politicians and public alike.

It's all nonsense really. Dentdale, Garsdale and Sedbergh were, for around a thousand years, situated in the old West Riding of Yorkshire, but in 1974 became "Cumbria" yet remain an essential and integral part of the Yorkshire Dales. Likewise a huge chunk of the old West Riding and even several parishes in North Yorkshire are in the Forest of Bowland AONB which as everyone knows is in Lancashire,

but no-one loses sleep over that.

What really matters is that the areas concerned are carefully looked after and well managed. National Park status brings significant advantages to farmers and landowners in particular with more grants available, an excellent Park management service, properly maintained footpaths and bridleways. There are no towns or even sizeable villages involved, and contrary to popular mythology, planning and development control matters will be dealt with by different planning teams from different offices in remarkably similar ways – few people would be aware of any difference.

But Park status can bring more resources, more management skills, more experience to help protect some of the most beautiful places in northern England. And local communities stand to benefit most.

The problem is with the politicians who will defend to the last their little fiefdoms. Planning decisions taken in Cumbria or the Eden Valley by people from Yorkshire – what an outrage! Councillors in North Yorkshire losing their Committee seats in favour of councillors from Cumbria – unthinkable!

This has nothing to do with local democracy but everything to do with local politics. Had it been up to local politicians we would have had no National Park. The Yorkshire Dales National Park was bitterly opposed every step of the way by the old West and North Riding County Councils. Had it not been for the firm stand of the Government in 1954 – a Conservative Administration – the Yorkshire Dales National Park would not have been created, and much of the landscape we cherish today might have been lost to major development or through lack of effective management.

There will be a lot of time-wasting debate and discussion to come on an issue which should be simple and logical. One thing is certain – Natural England and the Secretary of State (whoever he or she may be after May 2010), should take a decision which puts the protection of a nationally important landscape first, and must listen to the views of everyone, both within and outside these special yet vulnerable areas, and not just those who have self-interest and political advantage as their agenda.

Colin Speakman

The Deadman's Hill Green Lane: the case for a prohibition on recreational motor vehicles

The green lane popularly known as Deadman's Hill runs northwards from Middlesmoor, in Nidderdale, across the moor and down to Scar House

of the track and sending their noise reverberating across the reservoir and round the valley. What should be a prized feature of a superb landscape in

the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has become a playground for motor vehicle users. The impact of motorbikes and 4x4s on the track itself is bad enough, but their impact extends much wider, from the narrow road across the dam, where there is a dangerous conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, to the distant remote fellsides at the head of Nidderdale, and over into Coverdale, where the echoing noise of vehicles disturbs the peace. Farmers and moorland managers, of course, have always used the route when going about their



reservoir, over the dam, up to the col between Little Whenside and Deadman's Hill, and finally down to Arkleside, in Coverdale. Anyone who knows and loves this green lane will be well aware that lengthy sections have been utterly destroyed by the passage of recreational motor vehicles. Over the past few years, the rate of the route's deterioration has sharply increased. In a couple of places the route is now impassable on foot, on a bicycle or on horseback. 4x4s and motorbikes are now starting to open up parallel routes, alongside the sections of the route wrecked by their activities. At the brow, before the descent to Coverdale, vehicles have carved three ugly new routes, adjacent to the original, and now destroyed route. Just as important, the peace and tranquillity that most people seek is regularly disturbed, both during the week and at weekends, by strings of motor vehicles gunning their way up the steep sections

business, but their impact, compared with the impact of recreational vehicles, is slight.

Highway Authorities have powers to impose what are known as 'traffic regulation orders' (TROs) prohibiting recreational vehicles from routes where vehicular impact is considered to be malign. Authorities cannot impose TROs arbitrarily: they have to consult fully, and they have to balance, on one hand, their legal duties to keep highways open to all those users who have legal rights of way (and recreational vehicle users do have legal rights over most of the route), against their duty to take into account considerations that might justify the suspension of those legal rights. Among the considerations that may be taken into account when a TRO is contemplated are the following. In the words of the government's guidance notes, a TRO may be imposed in order to:

- Avoid danger to persons or other traffic using the road.
- Prevent damage to the road.
- Facilitate the passage of any kind of traffic (including pedestrians).
- Prevent unsuitable use by vehicular traffic
- Preserve the character of the road in the case where it is particularly suitable for use on horseback or on foot, or preserve the amenities of the area through which the road runs.
- Conserve or enhance the natural beauty of an area. This includes conserving flora and fauna, and geological or physiographical features.

All six of these considerations, when applied to the Deadman's Hill route, decisively outweigh the duty to keep the route open to recreational 4x4s and motorbikes. (Some recreational vehicle users unscrupulously use the needs of disabled people in order to justify keeping routes open for able-bodied vehicle users. Imaginatively-framed TROs can easily accommodate the needs of the genuinely disabled.)

It is time for North Yorkshire County Council to start the process of consultation on the question of a TRO on the route. Obviously, vehicle users will strenuously argue that their rights should not be suspended. Members of the general public, by contrast, are likely to argue that while everybody is entitled to enjoy the once-beautiful green lane and the landscape through which it runs, we should leave our vehicles behind, and quietly take to the hills on a horse, on a bicycle, on one of the impressive, rugged new electric disabled peoples' scooters, or on our own two feet, unless we are farmers and occupiers who need the track for access. With a TRO imposed on it, and with some sensitive repairs, the Deadman's Hill green lane stands a chance of once again becoming green.

Michael Bartholomew
Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes
Alliance at ydgl.co.uk

Living in Limburg

For the past eight years, my husband and I have lived in the south of The Netherlands, an area known as Limburg which also includes a small part of Belgium. We are in a village (dorp) called Doenrade, about 30

Doenrade



kilometres (20 miles) from our largest city, Maastricht.

Unlike the Dales, where limestone is a dominant feature, most of The Netherlands is made up of sand. The local stone is called marlstone, and is a buttery yellow colour, suitable for carving as it is soft. There are caves nearby at Valkenburg which have dinosaur fossils and stone-age remains, including wall paintings. As in Yorkshire, we have dialects, and in fact most villages in Limburg have their own. Maastricht, having been under the rule of several countries over the



Doenrade lane

centuries, even has its own dictionary! The Limburgers are very protective of their language, and really patriotic, displaying flags on Queen's Day (Koningindag) and Carnival. Carnival is an event (similar to Mardi Gras) which takes place just before Lent. Everyone

can dress in any variety of costume, sometimes homemade and often unique! This is an event which I enjoy as it is a holiday weekend for Brabant and Limburg, when people celebrate with parades and eating and drinking.

Maastricht is the main centre of celebration where the carnival continues virtually nonstop for four days! I find the Limburgers to be friendly people and generally they are family oriented and therefore (except for Carnival) quite conservative. This is the Roman Catholic

part of The Netherlands.

Our village life is very quiet, not much through traffic, only the occasional tractor or bus. This is a farming community with cows, sheep and chickens, the rest being arable e.g. oil-seed rape, maize, sugar beet or cereals.

In size, Doenrade is comparable to somewhere like Bainbridge. We have a small shop, a bar, a school, church, village hall and football club. Two bus services run through the village to our nearest town, Sittard, which is about 5 km away and is similar in area and facilities to Skipton, including a market from which I buy local produce.

We are less than 1 km from the German border and about 15 km from the border with Belgium, over the Maas river. So unlike Dalesfolk we are able to shop in three different countries on the same day! Our weather is

Schinnen farm



usually fairly mild, similar to the south-east of England, and we rarely have heavy snow. Sometimes there is frost and last winter was the coldest since we have lived here. Most of The Netherlands is pretty flat, but Limburg has hills and a similar landscape to Surrey, with some old farmhouses and 'kasteels', which are large fortified houses. This area is less populated than the north of The Netherlands, and a bit of a tourist area, where the Dutch come to experience cycling uphill! The country is very bike friendly, with a lot

Sittard market



of cycle tracks and in fact most country lanes are only open to bicycles, mopeds, walkers and farm traffic. There are strict penalties for motorists who are involved in accidents with cyclists.

Limburg is a very pleasant area to live, with a less structured landscape than the Dales, but still beautiful in its own way, with plenty of wildlife, attractive villages and good restaurants.

Ann D Hudson

Netherland YDS Member

Passion for Nidderdale harnessed through Friends

Low Dam, Nidderdale.

Photos by Eric Moss, Harrogate Borough Council.



Spring 2010 sees the fifth anniversary of the formation of Friends of Nidderdale AONB.

Established as a limited company and achieving charitable status two years later, we have grown in number to more than 600 supporters. We use the term 'supporters' because we are not a membership organisation as such: those who join us do so in a myriad of ways by, for example, volunteering their time in numerous AONB groups, by actively conserving their own part of the AONB, by saving energy, by shopping locally for local produce, by living more sustainably. All these activities are expressed in pledges of support that align with our objectives to engage the local community and visitors in the conservation objectives of the AONB and to broaden the understanding of the AONB designation. Many of our supporters also donate to the cause so that we can help fund conservation schemes and environmental education projects.

We set out with the broad ethos of being friendly, lively, humorous, professional, accessible, active, forward-looking and having a strong sense of ownership of the qualities of the AONB. We do very much see ourselves as Friends of the AONB, supporting the work of the AONB Team in Pateley Bridge as well as promoting conservation activities. We are not a

campaigning organisation and have no axes to grind other than for clearing scrub and unauthorised motorcyclists!

Our charitable status enables us to bid for grants from various bodies so that we can extend this work. Our main project in 2009 for example co-ordinated partner contributions from Wharfedale Naturalists, Yorkshire Water, and the British Canoe Union to a Yorventure-funded conservation scheme in the Washburn Valley downstream from Thruscross. Here the wetland habitat has been enhanced to increase its capacity for dragonflies, invertebrates and amphibians; footpaths have been renovated, and a seat incorporated into a restored wall. The majority of the work has been done by AONB volunteers, all of course Friends of Nidderdale AONB, supervised by the Ranger service. We were delighted to show the results of this community effort to the CEO of Natural England, Dr. Helen Phillips, on a visit to the AONB last July.

We are very proud of our two Award schemes: Friends Enterprising Farm Award, and new in 2009, the Friends Conservation Award. Both of these awards encourage sound stewardship of the land and sustainable management. The Farm Award is run in conjunction with Nidderdale Agricultural Society and aimed as the name suggests at farmers who are

demonstrating good practice in conservation: prize money in 2009 was generously sponsored by Thorpe Trees and Scurrah Associates/ATM. The winners in 2009 were the Walker family at Studfold Farm, Lofthouse. The Conservation Award has a much wider brief, and recognises the fine work that is done perhaps on a smaller scale, won in 2009 by the team at Old Sleningford Farm. The sponsors for this were NOVA Healthcare.

As the national economic situation begins to constrain public spending, the financial and administrative support that we have enjoyed from the AONB will no doubt be reviewed, and our focus this year is to look to the corporate sector for the means to become more independent. Our running costs are small, but we do want to retain the quality of our bi-annual newsletter, and a full programme of educational walks and talks that are always so well attended.

There is of course a strong congruence between the Yorkshire Dales Society and Friends of Nidderdale AONB with supporters in common: as a 'little sister' we are distinctively different, but rejoice in the family bond of shared values and mutual interests, and we warmly welcome your participation in helping us to grow.

Barry Slaymaker



Profile: Rhona Thornton

"Nowhere have I found paths comparable to the grassy limestone tracks of the Dales. The protection of these paths is one of my passions." YDS member Rhona Thornton's comments refer to her walking holidays taken in many parts of the world, and underline her deep commitment to and understanding of the Yorkshire Dales.

An early Yorkshire Dales Society member with her husband Hugh in the mid eighties, Rhona was born in Harrogate to Scots parents, and to some extent "bred in Scotland" as she says, since many of their Harrogate friends were exiled Scots! Educated in Leeds, she later studied at Manchester University obtaining a degree in Mathematics, then teaching in England and Hong Kong for a few years. On her return to England, she "trained on the job" in accountancy in Leeds, becoming a qualified chartered accountant three years later. She married Hugh in 1977 and had two daughters Katherine and Alex, in three years. Leeds still remains the couple's main base. After Rhona's return to work while her daughters were growing up, she concentrated mainly on part-time work, but specialised in personal tax and trusts until her retirement in 2002. This specialist knowledge has been at the service of the Yorkshire Dales Society Council of Management where Rhona, a Council member for several years, is currently YDS Treasurer and also a key member of the Finance and Governance Committee.

In the early 1970s Rhona decided to familiarise herself better with her own countryside by joining the Ramblers' Association, enjoying many of their

walks, then becoming the RA's Honorary Treasurer of the West Riding Area for about 15 years in the 80s and 90s. She still walks regularly with a local RA group and also leads walks for them. But soon after her retirement she was keen to take her interest even



further and to give something back by applying to work as a volunteer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Becoming a fully-fledged volunteer after a year of training, she was allocated to the south-west area of the Park which includes Malham and Ribblesdale, spending 15-20 days a year mainly in summer on National Park work which includes weekend patrol walks in popular areas, surveys of various kinds such as parish paths, butterflies, barns and leading walks. Not surprisingly her knowledge and appreciation of the area and of the National Park has increased enormously over the last few years. She also spent some time on the committee of the Dales Way Association which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Rhona additionally worked as a

volunteer for some months at the Society's former Otley office some years ago helping with some very necessary routine office work, but more importantly she has regularly prepared the quarterly Dales Digest for the Society for a number of years and still continues to do so; this excellent publication is available these days by email as well as by post (for a small annual fee) and contains much invaluable information on many issues dealing with Dales life such as the environment, farming, social issues, transport and many more - culled from the local and national press. Her main interests include socialising with friends, going to the opera and theatre, and spending one evening a week at a Scottish dancing class.

For some years the couple's two daughters have been living and working abroad. Katherine has spent seven years in Japan teaching English at a university near Tokyo and giving courses to Japanese primary school teachers. Alex, after a psychology degree and specialised work with young people in London, is living in New Zealand and managing a restaurant.

Over the years both Rhona and Hugh have been immensely supportive members of the Yorkshire Dales Society, helping out on a number of occasions with the occasional small crisis and totally committed to furthering the best interests of both the Society and the Dales.

Fleur Speakman

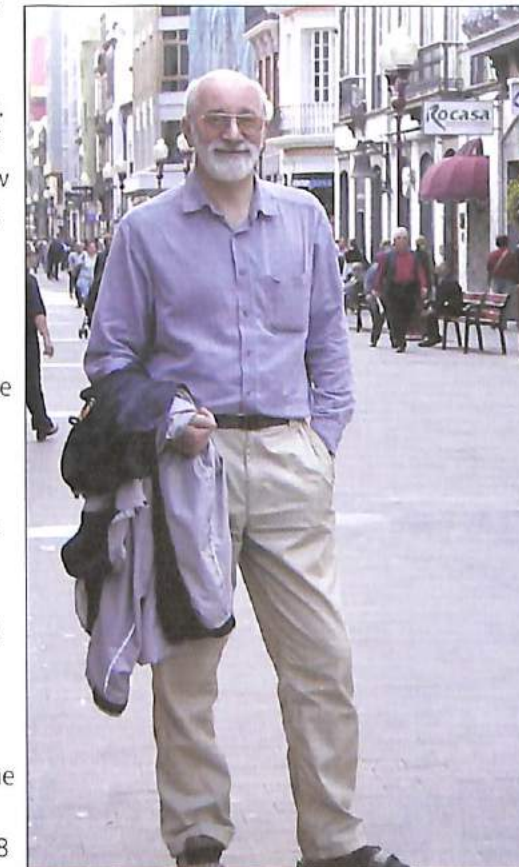
Profile: Hugh Thornton

YDS Council of Management member Hugh Thornton vividly remembers the impression the Yorkshire Dales made on his teenage self. "My first visit to the Yorkshire Dales was on a Field Study Course in March 1963 at Malham Tarn House (just after the snow from that terrible winter had cleared). For a boy brought up in Hampshire the scenery was stunning and totally different to anything I had ever seen before." Hugh states that he feels himself very lucky that his life has brought him back to the area and given him a chance to explore the Dales at leisure, though he still gives his home area of the South Downs and the nearby New Forest equal billing as regards beauty.

Hugh was born in Southampton, attending Taunton's school, and graduating in geography from Bristol University with an honours degree. He went on to the Leeds School of Planning during 1967-1969, writing his postgraduate dissertation on measures to redevelop, or bring back into use redundant mills in Keighley. His career in planning continued at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea as a Planning Assistant, particularly involved in a Greater London Housing Survey. This was followed a year later by a move to the north to Leeds City Council Planning Department where from 1969 to 1988 his work for the Policy and Research Unit included the development of the first computerised system for processing planning and building applications, and representing the Council at major planning inquiries. During 1987-8 Hugh was seconded to help set up the South Leeds Groundwork Trust, and during the next five years was retained by MVM Consultants which deals with Land and Property Information Systems, as part of their consultancy team to advise local authorities on automated Property Searches.

Hugh's wide reaching professional interests and expertise are demonstrated in his next post where from 1993-2000 he helped to set up a

Consultancy Unit providing advice on environmental and economic regeneration to British and Continental local authorities including such countries as Madrid, Barcelona and Malta, and to cross-sector organisations such as St Helens Renaissance (in Lancashire). He was also instrumental in providing consultancy advice and contract review services to major cleansing contractors.



Finally, until the end of November 2009 Hugh was part of the Advisory Team supporting Defra and helped to develop the National Local Environmental Quality Survey of England (LEQSE), and related performance indicators on street cleaning for local authorities.

Like his wife Rhona, Hugh has a formidable portfolio of voluntary work. For many years he acted as Footpath Officer for the West Riding Ramblers', served on its Publications Committee and was a former vice-chairman. He gave nearly twenty years service to the Leeds Federated Housing Association and was also its former Chairman. The

Association has traditionally concentrated in tackling housing in the most deprived areas in Leeds and more recently other areas such as Harrogate. Hugh believes that the problem of affordable housing in the Dales in its own way is just as acute and feels very strongly that some of the existing stock of housing should be used instead of relying entirely on new housing provision.

As well as Hugh's considerable work for the Yorkshire Dales Society (only his huge work load prevented him joining the Council of Management some years sooner), in committee his considered comments, balanced views and wealth of experience have made him a highly respected part of the YDS team. Hugh recently became a Board member of the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company, representing the YDS, and part of an organisation with considerable achievements to its credit in the field of public transport development in the Dales.

Currently Hugh is Chairman of the YDS Environment, Social and Economic Policy Committee and a member of the YDS Finance and Governance Committee. In the New Year, at the public inquiry called to hear the appeal against the decision to refuse permission to install a number of wind turbines at Brightenber near Gargrave, just outside the National Park, Hugh most ably and successfully represented the views of the Yorkshire Dales Society - a major victory as the appeal by EnergiKontor has been refused on the grounds of loss of tranquillity.

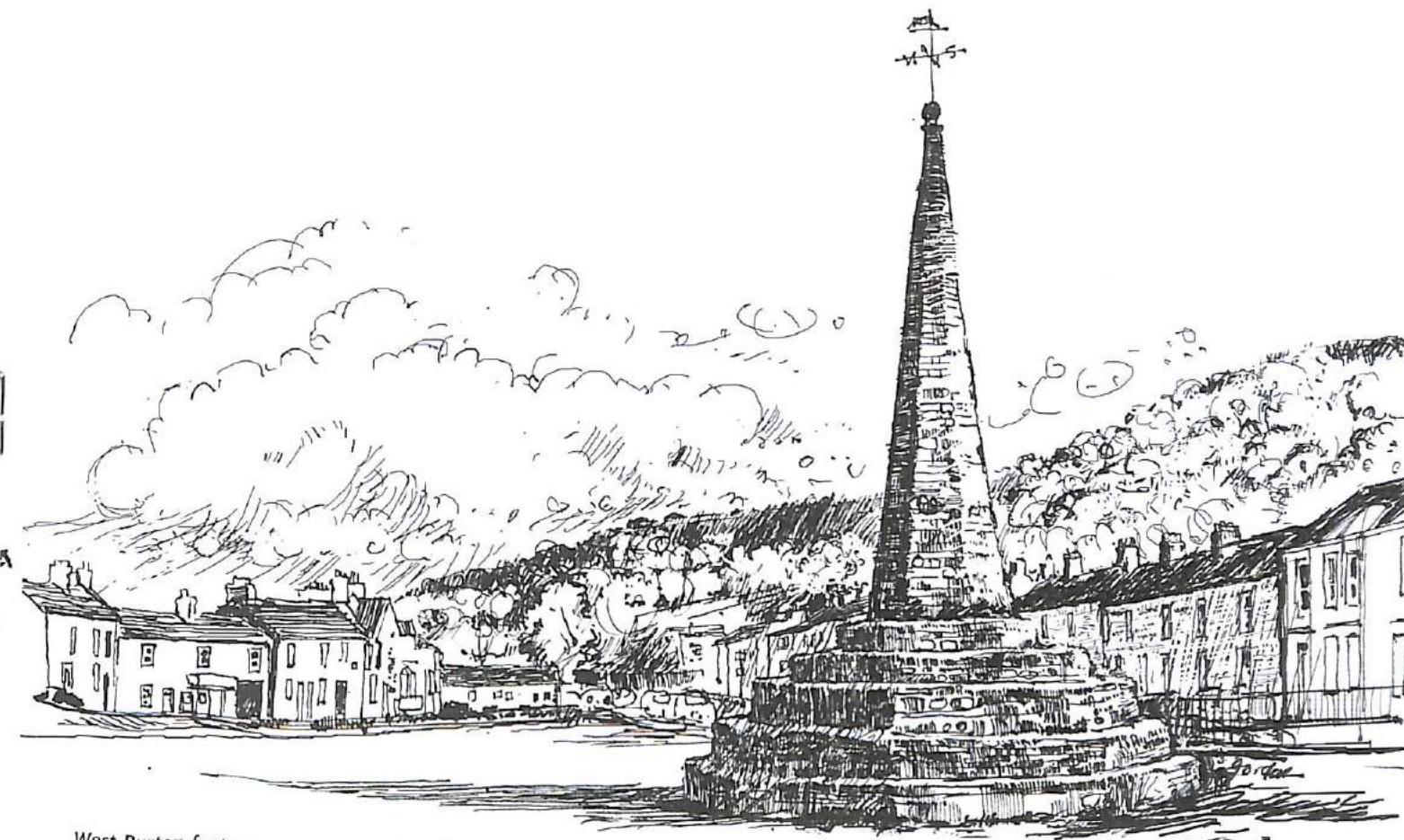
Hugh enjoys walking enormously, his other interests include opera, football (he is a life-long and adds 'long-suffering' Southampton fan), but he also hopes to devote more time during his retirement to a long-standing interest in geology and local history.

Fleur Speakman

Wensleydale

Frank Gordon's introduction to Wensleydale featuring the ruined brooding towers of Bolton Castle, fascinating villages and some splendid scenery

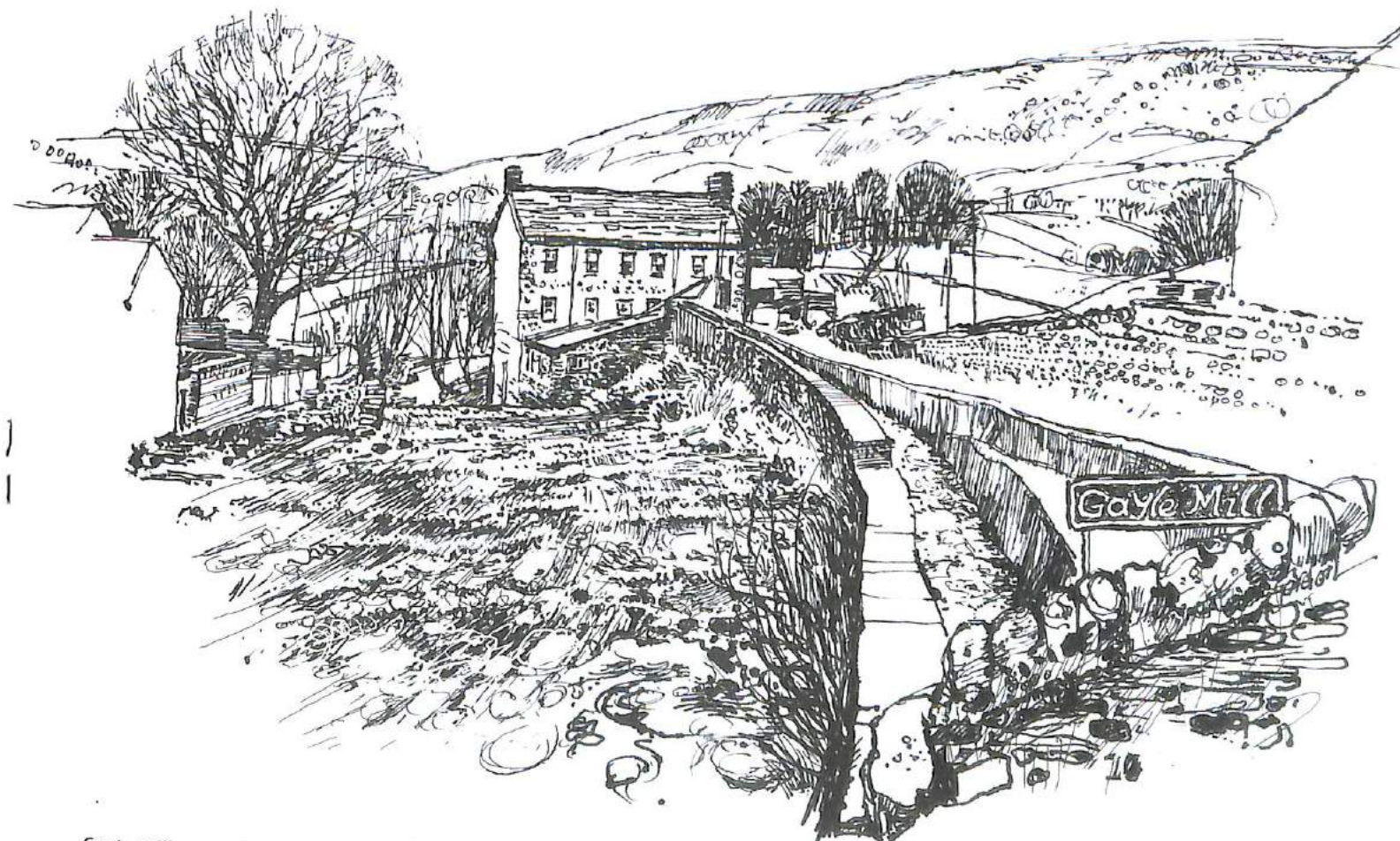
Bolton Castle with its Mary Queen of Scots connections.



West Burton features a very attractive village green.



Hawes is a market town with its own special character.



Gayle Mill, part of our industrial heritage.

Major Yorke in Nidderdale

He relaxed in a well-upholstered chair that might have been made for him. He smiled affably as I prepared to tape-record an interview with him about his beloved dale-country - and made efforts to protect the cable twist microphone and recorder from the attentions of his lively little dog!

Rather more than twenty years ago, Major J E E Yorke, of Halton Place, had agreed to chat with me about the family's four centuries-long link with Nidderdale. The Yorkes sold up property and land they had held since the sixteenth century in 1923 to cover death duties.

Their name remains at the Yorke Arms at Ramsgill, beyond Gouthwaite reservoir, the creation of which swamped their ancestral home. The so-called Yorke Folly, arches set on the moor edge above their old home at Bewerley, was built in 1740 to provide work for unemployed men.

Major Yorke (known to his friends as Jock) did not let the blindness that afflicted him towards the end of his life prevent him from enjoying a daily walk with a friend along familiar paths - nor, indeed, fishing for migratory salmon on reaches of the Ribble he could recall in fine detail.

His imagination was sharpened as he brought the old-time Nidderdale back to life. Bewerley Hall, the family home near Pateley Bridge, though grand in size and appearance, was badly

situated in a hollow. There were sixteen bedrooms - and one bath of the type that was a fixture. Hip baths were supplied with water by a maid. Two jugs were available, one with hot water and one with cold. The bather

Major Yorke.
Photo: W R Mitchell Collection



He also became familiar with the moor at Grimwith.

Some estate workers lived in remote places. The Major, chatting with a man who had a large family, observed that one of his neighbours was similarly blessed with many children. "Aye," said the local man, "we haddent so much to do up here of a winter's neet. It's different nah - they've got telly."

Thomas Edward Yorke, his grandfather, taught him how to use rod and fly; they would fish from the banks of the Nidd and also from bank or boat at Gouthwaite, where many good grayling, some running to 2 lb, might be found.

There was an industrial side to the estate. Many a king's ransom in lead had been removed from the hills. He recalled the closure of the Bewerley mines in about 1925. Forty-eight farmers wrote asking him if he could keep the mines open. They drew money from carting rails and fuel to the mines and bringing away loads of mineral.

The moors fascinated Jock. He recalled for me when he travelled by train along the railway installed during the reservoir-building days. He would trudge from a dalehead station to moors given a regal hue by heather in bloom. Only the croaky voices of grouse broke the stillness.

Bill Mitchell

Swaledale Festival

Swaledale Festival runs 29th May - 13th June, with an emphasis on music, though walks, lectures, poetry, exhibitions and additional events are also on offer. The eclectic music programme offers everything from The Fitzwilliam String Quartet to Muker and Hawes local bands. The box office opens April 19th.

Online: www.swaledale-festival.org.uk or phone 01748 880019 Monday- Saturday, 10-4.
In person: Tourist information centres in Richmond, Leyburn and Hawes Community Office.

The Future of our National Parks

It is not often that the Review covers government national policy, but here we bring to readers' attention an important new draft government document. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has issued a new 40 page draft circular on the future of National Parks and invited comments, prior to its final publication as official government policy.

The new draft circular will replace the existing circular issued 15 years ago. This new version sets out a long term (40 year) "vision" for the future of England's National Parks and a number of proposed priorities for the National Park Authorities to pursue alongside carrying out their statutory duties.

The Yorkshire Dales Society has considered the draft circular and has submitted a five page response to it. We recognise there is much to welcome in the document. There are many new developing pressures on the National Parks that require a refreshed approach. Of particular importance is the inclusion of the long term vision for the Parks, which the Society welcomes as giving a useful overall "direction of travel" for the future.

But (and there usually is a 'but' of course) we do have a number of reservations and concerns about the draft circular. For example:

- the vision is too long term - a shorter time scale would concentrate effort;
- the 24 priorities set out in the document are far too many and tantamount to having none at all. The Society calls for greater clarity on the key priorities for the future of our National Parks that are clearly linked with the circular's long term vision;
- the draft pays insufficient attention to the importance of the economic and social well-being of local communities within the Parks, and to the crucial role of the farming community in making our Parks such as the Yorkshire Dales such special places;
- the section on transport is disappointing and fails to recognise the key contribution that public transport, cycling and walking can make to achieving the vision.

Overall, the new draft circular is a

helpful step forward in conserving and managing our precious National Parks, but it could, the Society considers, be much improved by including the points it has raised in its response.

Copies of the Society's full response to the draft circular are available from the YDS office in Settle (tel 01729 825600) or on the Society's website www.yds.org.uk

Rick Cowley

Environmental, Social and Economic Policy Committee, Yorkshire Dales Society



Hardraw Scar. Drawing by Frank Gordon.

Dalesbus Success

Despite a somewhat disappointing summer and one of the worst winters in living memory (with some services even cancelled because of snow), the Yorkshire Dales Society's Dales & Bowland CIC Sunday DalesBus network in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB has beaten all targets with a hugely impressive increase of almost 50% in passenger numbers in 2009/10 compared with 2008/9.

Much of this success is due to the efforts of a team of volunteers, both by the CIC Board and its officers, and by ordinary members of YDS and YDPTUG. Uniquely in the UK, volunteers plan and promote a fully integrated network of bus services in the Dales, fully co-ordinated with trains at Skipton, Ilkley and Ribbleshead stations, prepare and distribute timetables, organise guided walks, and work closely with the National Park, Nidderdale AONB, Metro and NYCC to fill buses and promote events. Whilst the main

aim has been to support social inclusion by enabling people without access to their own transport to enjoy the Dales, there are major environmental benefits as people are persuaded to leave their cars behind or to park, ride and walk. There are significant economic benefits too, as walkers and other bus users support local cafes, shops and pubs in the Dales.

Spring sees the launch of the 2010 DalesBus network with exciting new services to Nidderdale and Wharfedale from York, links to the Wensleydale Railway, more summer holiday Dales Experience bus services from Bradford and an experimental new service to Scar House in Upper Nidderdale. New bargain tickets are also available, valid on connecting local buses from Leeds, Harrogate and Bradford. Full details are available in the excellent new Metro Dalesbus timetable and online at www.dalesbus.org

Rye Loaf Hill

Few of the Pennine hills have descriptive titles. But none is more appropriate than Rye Loaf Hill. Standing only some 1,795 feet high, it does not feature among the Pennine giants, but it is impressive from close range and also, at some distance from the south, making it among the more distinctive hills in the dales.

It forms part of the range of higher land to the north of the Aire Gap and thus is visible from the Craven lowlands, and from the hills to the north and west of Bradford such as Ilkley Moor. At a distance, from the south, it appears as a rather pointed hill to the west of the broader top of Kirby Fell.

The summit lies only a quarter mile south of the Mid Craven Fault and the limestone stretches to the north. But the upper slopes, the summit area and the gentle slopes to the south are firmly of millstone grit. Two miles further east brings you to Malham and the upper waters of the Aire. Three miles to the west takes you to Settle. The summit is in the parish of Settle, just to the south is Scosthrop parish and a little to the east the parish of Kirby Malham.

The best approach is from the west through Stockdale and here the Rye Loaf is the prominent feature, the closer one gets, the more massive it appears, though in truth the climb from a gate high on the Stockdale road involves a distance of less than a half a mile and no more than 150 feet of ascent. The hill is protected on all sides by high, stout stone

walls so the only entry to avoid clambering over the walls is via the aforementioned gate or via a good step stile just to the south of the summit.

So what gives the hill its distinctive shape and name? It sits above a typical gritstone ridge, with an average of 10°-15° slopes. This is the top knot of the rye loaf. It is composed of Grassington grit which is slightly tougher than the surrounding grits. And its summit area of less than an acre is gently rounded.

An alternative route to Rye Loaf can take Malham as the starting point, with the choice of including Pikedaw and Kirby Fell. From the south a steady climb of rather more than a mile is possible from the junction of the Kirby Malham and Airton road; or a further choice of ascent from the north from the Langcliffe track, taking in the unexpected and unnamed highest point in the area in the vicinity of Grizedales. Oddly enough it does not seem higher whether seen from below or from its summit.

Nevertheless Rye Loaf Hill is a feature well worth visiting, whether for a nearer view or for the opportunity of an easy climb; the visit can be combined with other places of interest such as Warrendale Knotts and Victoria Cave which are less than two miles away.

Bernard Peel

Book Review

THE LUNE VALLEY AND THE HOWGILLS by W.R.MITCHELL

published by Phillimore at £16.99, locally available or via website www.phillimore.co.uk with a 10% discount. For postage & packing add £2.75 to the standard cost of £16.99; also available on Amazon.

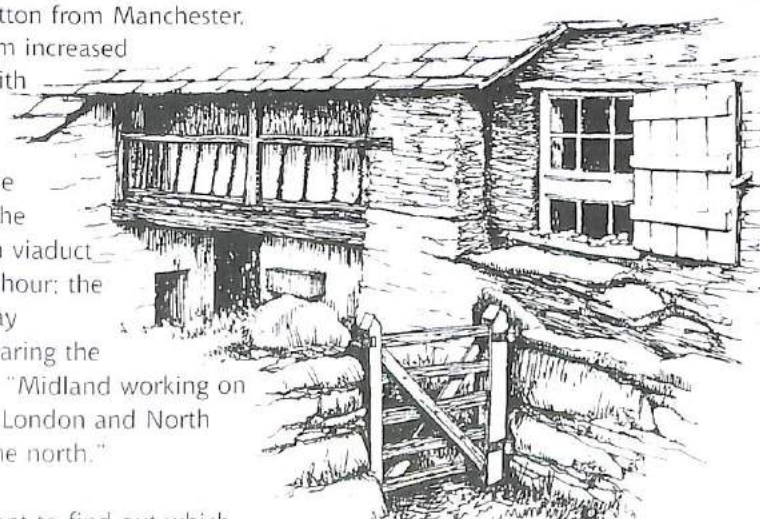
The Lune Valley and the Howgills by Bill Mitchell takes a somewhat lesser known Dales' region to the north-west of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, with Sedbergh and Kirby Stephen its larger centres of population. Bill has produced a highly readable and enjoyable guide in very attractive hard-back format, packed with interesting black and white archive photos, enhanced by his usual meticulous research and delight in his subject which makes the area come so vividly to life. Religious associations, market towns, landed gentry, farming, crafts and industries, even sports and past-

times are among his topics, but particularly fascinating is the transport section on Drovers and Packmen; their particular traditions enlivened by some delightful anecdotes. After the Turnpike Acts and considerable road improvements, the knitting industry, the local wool trade and even the mills processing cotton from Manchester, benefited from increased prosperity. With the coming of the railways to the Lune Valley, the large Ingleton viaduct had its finest hour; the various railway companies sharing the splendid site, "Midland working on one side and London and North Western on the north."

If you also want to find out which Ancient British garment was much

appreciated by Roman soldiers and why, or what unfortunate individual was apparently shunned like "a speckled hen or one smitten by the plague", or even what precisely the Peter Pan connection is with this area, this book is your essential guide.

FS



Impression of a spinning gallery. Drawing by David Hoyle.

Introducing the Yorkshire Dales Green Network

The Yorkshire Dales Society is working with other local businesses and enterprises to create an informal, but mutually supportive, sustainable tourism network in the Yorkshire Dales based around walking, cycling, public transport and linked accommodation. Initially this will be managed through the Yorkshire Dales Society in partnership with its subsidiary, the Dales & Bowland Community Interest Company. A new web site - the Yorkshire Dales Green Network (www.Green-Network.org.uk) will be launched shortly. This will be promoted to other kindred organisations regionally and nationally, and be the prime site for car-free and active travel access, and sustainable tourism to and within the Yorkshire Dales.

The Dales have been divided into four local **Green Networks**, all based around key gateway towns with rail and mainline bus services, and linked

local bus, walking and cycling networks. These are:

Southern Dales – Wharfedale, Littondale and Malhamdale (Skipton, Ilkley, Grassington)

Western Dales – Ribblesdale, Three Peaks, Dentdale, Garsdale, Lunesdale (Settle, Ingleton, Kirkby Lonsdale, Sedbergh)

Nidderdale – Nidderdale, Washburndale, Colsterdale (Harrogate, Ripon, Pateley Bridge, Masham)

Northern Dales – Wensleydale, Swaledale, Arkengarthdale (Leyburn, Hawes, Richmond, Reeth)

In order to join the network, businesses and organisations are expected to promote sustainability and green travel to and from their services and facilities. Registration costs just £10 per business, which secures a listing on the Green

Network website, participation in the network and a £10 discount on Full Corporate Membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society, with regular communications on a range of conservation and green tourism issues affecting the Yorkshire Dales.

Businesses which take a more proactive approach to sustainability, for example by using local produce, offering discounts for walkers, cyclists and public transport users, distributing bus information to guests or on websites, and supporting the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's "Donate to the Dales" scheme, can also apply for designation as "gold members" of the network.

If you are interested in joining the network, or would like further details, please contact the Yorkshire Dales Society office – info@yds.org.uk or give us a call on 01729 825600.

Harrogate Rambling Club

One organisation that shares our love of the Yorkshire Dales is the Harrogate Rambling Club. The Club recently presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Yorkshire Dales Society in recognition of the contribution the Society makes in campaigning for this beautiful area. Lynne Noble, a member of both the Club and the Society, writes about the activities of the Club.

The Harrogate Rambling Club, founded in 1939, has grown and diversified to meet modern needs and offers a wide programme of walks to suit all abilities. Membership numbers have grown to over 450 people from neighbouring towns and villages as well as Harrogate itself.

Harrogate benefits from close proximity to both the Yorkshire Dales and Yorkshire Moors National Parks and also the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These diverse areas offer walkers choices of routes and scenery: gritstone or limestone outcrops, flower filled hay meadows, heather clad moors, woodland, rivers and waterfalls. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000 considerably increased the areas available for our members to explore.

Up to five different grades of walk are offered on Wednesdays and Sundays year round from gentle strolls of about three or four miles with no gradients, to more strenuous routes of twelve to fifteen miles at a faster pace

with the likelihood of hills. It is not necessary for all members to own a car, as lifts are offered, and environmental impact reduced and costs shared, or the bus service is used. In addition to enjoying the extensive walking opportunities in our own varied county, the Club ventures further afield on coach rambles with a country pub meal afterwards. Social activities such as BBQs, ceilidhs and annual dinners feature too.

Members have input into environmental issues such as developments concerning wind farms, use of green lanes by vehicles and accessibility of footpaths. The Club is considering widening awareness of the benefits of walking by providing information in health and medical centres, physiotherapy practices, colleges of further education and appropriate retailers.

Members and guests receive a warm welcome and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. There are only two provisos: children need to be accompanied by an adult, and the family dog needs to be left at home! If you are interested in exploring your county on foot, full details of the Club's extensive programme can be found in local libraries or via the Club's website at www.harrogateramblingclub.org.uk. Alternatively, contact the Club's Membership Secretary on 07952 476889.

Yorkshire Dales Society Photographic Competition

The Rivers of the Yorkshire Dales are not only an integral part of its often spectacular landscape, but are also integral to its geology and genesis.



carving their way through dales, meadows, fields and hills, at times in full and noisy spate or idling leisurely along, etched into the history of dales industry, agriculture and way of life. Each Dale has an individual personality and many of the rivers have distinct even dramatic features – rocks, subtle or bold colours, wild-life, trees, plants and bushes, waterfalls, buildings and much more help to create some highly individual scenes.

The Yorkshire Dales Review has devised a photographic competition with a difference. We are hoping that you will

take your digital cameras to some of Yorkshire's somewhat lesser well-known rivers, perhaps as an opportunity to explore the Dales when the days are

longer. We are asking YDS members to send us copies of their digital colour photos (publication quality) to the email address given below, complete with a short title: the photos should try to encapsulate a particular river or river-side's special qualities.

Competition Rules

- 1 Entries are only open to all members of the Yorkshire Dales Society with the exception of the YDS Council of Management or any employee. (Amateur entrants only please).
- 2 Members are asked to offer **one or not more than three entries** of recent **digital colour** photos which seem to best convey the special qualities of a Yorkshire Dales river.
- 3 Entries of digital colour photos must be sent with brief titles on the photo, and a message with your photo(s)

and contact details to the email: ydscompetition@yahoo.co.uk

- 4 Your accompanying email must contain your name and address, and any number coding.
- 5 Two well-known professional photographers based in Yorkshire, will be the judges: Simon Warner and Barry Wilkinson, both have highly successful photographic careers. In the event of a tie-break, the editor of the YDS Review will be asked to assist in a lay capacity.
- 6 The judges' decisions are final and the Society reserves the right not to issue particular awards.
- 7 The Yorkshire Dales Society also reserves the right to reproduce any of the photos submitted during or after the competition with suitable acknowledgements.
- 8 Photos and details **must** reach us within the specified deadline – October 31st 2010.
- 9 The Society cannot be held responsible for any delays, damage or computer problems.
- 10 You are asked to ensure your jpeg photos are not larger than 5 x 7 inches (13 x 18 cm), 72 dpi (dots per inch). Prize-winners will be asked to send a disc with photos sized 300 dpi, for re-production purposes.
- 11 Prize winners will receive book tokens and certificates.

Friends of Ilkley Moor Launch New Events Programme & Picture Gallery

The Friends of Ilkley Moor, who campaign to protect and enhance this world famous expanse of publicly owned heather moorland, are now into their second year. Following the success of the Events and Learning Programme last year, a new Programme funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and the South Pennines LEADER Programme has now been created with sixteen events ranging from Bird and Bat spotting to Dry-stone walling. The events start in May through to September. Many projects of renovation and restoration are planned for this year. For further information please log onto www.ilkleymoorgroup.org

Over 70 stunning images of Ilkley Moor have been launched on The Friends' Moor Website Gallery. Owen Wells (Chair of The Friends) comments "Enjoy the visual splendour of Ilkley Moor by browsing our Gallery of Photographs. All the images can be downloaded in high resolution for high quality reproduction free of charge".

The Friends would like to thank Gavin Edwards, Andy Savage, Colin Williams and Barry Wilkinson for contributing their Photographs free of any charge without which the Picture Gallery would not have been possible.

Spring/Summer Events 2010

Join fellow Yorkshire Dales Society members on what is guaranteed to be an enjoyable and informative full or half day out in the Yorkshire Dales this Spring and early Summer.

All members, friends and family are warmly welcome. Most walks will finish around 12.30pm and are free of charge.

Saturday, 17 April Pen Y Ghent Walks

See part of the Three Peaks Project with Steve Hastie, Area Ranger / Project Manager, Three Peaks, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Option 1 – circular up Pen Y Ghent via Brackenbottom and returning down Horton Scar Lane. Lunch at the summit, weather permitting! Approximately 5 miles in length with a strenuous short climb to the summit cap. We will talk about the Three Peaks Project, path maintenance issues, the summit shelter and challenge events.

Option 2 – circular up Brackenbottom then down to Churn Milk Hole, and back via Dub Cote. This would be the preferred option if the weather is bad or for those who don't wish to tackle the steep climb to the summit. There is still moderate uphill walking, and this option is also about 5 miles.

Meet at the YDNP car park, Horton in Ribblesdale at 10.30am. Wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring wet weather options.

Train: d. Leeds 08.49am, Skipton 09.26am, Settle 09.50am, a. Horton in Ribblesdale 09.58am

Sunday, 09 May Annual Wild Flower Walk, Oxenber Woods, Austwick

Walk: 6 miles easy, approx 4.5 hours
Joint Walk with YDMT Festival of Flowers 2010
Walk through Oxenber Woods to Feizor (with refreshments at Home Barn if desired) and back to the River Bridge, Austwick. A fabulous riot of wild flowers will be seen on this truly superb walk

Leader: Dr Chris Wright

Wild Flower and Plant Expert: Dr Judith Allinson
Park and Meet: River Bridge/Wood Lane, Austwick.
From A65 take first turning right signed to Austwick (Graystonber Lane) approx 1/2 mile.
Please park with care.

Lifts: Can be arranged from Settle Station (train from Leeds a. 1006 - contact YDS office)

Cost: Free

Contact: Anne Webster

Yorkshire Dales Society 01729 825 600



Cancelled in January due to bad weather and now re-arranged

Saturday, 22 May A Different Circular Walk, Hawes

Leader: Alan Watkinson, YDS. Walk 4 - 5 miles, easy, moderate

Meet outside the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes at 10.30am

Bus: 157 Bedale d. 0905, Leyburn 0940

Lecture: The Haytime Project in the Dales
by Christa Perry (Project Officer) and Don Gamble (Project Manager) YDMT / YDNPA

Meet in the Methodist Church, Hawes for 2.15pm start

Saturday, 12 June Haymeadows at Winskill

Joint Walk with YDMT Festival of Flowers 2010

Walk: A four mile return walk from Stainforth Car Park to Winskill Farm to meet Dales farmer, archaeologist, naturalist and YDS Honorary Member Tom Lord to look at the flower rich meadows at Winskill Farm. One steep ascent.

Wild Flower and Plant Expert: Dr Judith Allinson

Walk Leader: Colin Speakman

Meet: 1300 Stainforth Car Park

Train: Catch the train to Settle, d. Leeds 1049, Keighley 1112, Skipton 1126, a. Settle 1146

Bus: Catch the B10 bus d. Settle Market Place 1245 a. Stainforth 1253

Motorists park at Stainforth Car Park or Winskill Farm

Saturday, 10 July 2010 YDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Racehorses Hotel, Kettlewell at 2.00pm prompt

Guest Speaker: Julian Carlisle, National Trust Farm and Countryside Advisor for Yorkshire and the North East - 'Farming our Countryside'

Saturday, 24 July Meet the Real Dales Ponies

Gill Woods, owner of registered native ponies will give an informative talk on 'History of the Dales Ponies'
Meet: 11.00am at Stainforth Car Park
The ponies are a short walk away.

Train: d. Leeds 09.47, Skipton 10.26, Settle 10.44

Bus: B10 d. Settle Market Place 10.45 a. Stainforth 10.53

Afternoon Walk: From Stainforth to Horton Station following the Ribble Way. Approx 5 miles. Moderate

Walk Leader: Colin Speakman



Front Cover: Spring in Crummackdale, photo by Colin Speakman.

Back Cover: Small Heath Butterfly, photo by Colin Williams.
See article 'Friends of Ilkley Moor Gallery' on page 14.

Yorkshire Dales Society:

The Yorkshire Dales Society, The Town Hall, Cheapside,
Settle, BD24 9EJ.

Telephone/Answerphone 01729 825600.

www.yds.org.uk

See also –

www.yorkshiredalesheritage.org.uk

www.dalesandbowland.com

Printed by John Mason Printers, Park Avenue, Skipton.

The Society is a Registered Charity No 515384.

Published by the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Views expressed in the YDS Review are not necessarily those of the Yorkshire Dales Society.

Any contributions should be sent to the Editors at the Society's address opposite.

Membership Subscription Rates

Single Retired £12, Single Adult £15.

Retired Couple £16, Family/Couple £20

Affiliated £26, Corporate – category A £26, category B £52,
category C £100.

Please sign your Gift Aid form if you haven't already done so.